

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, October 11, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

President Brian S. McCarthy presided; City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Patricia D. Piecuch; Alderman Richard A. Dowd led in the Pledge to the Flag.

The roll call was taken with 13 members of the Board of Aldermen present; Alderman Siegel, Alderman Schoneman were recorded absent.

Mayor James W. Donchess and Corporation Counsel Steven A. Bolton were also present.

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Donchess

First I would like to congratulate Alderman Schoneman and his wife on the birth of a new baby. It's not that often that an Alderman has baby. It's a big event.

Tomorrow there is an event at the Elm Street Middle School and it is what we are calling trees for the Tree Streets. Nick Caggiano, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation and James Vayo of the Economic Development Department have been meeting to formulate a group of locations where we can plant some trees in the Tree Streets. Despite the name of the Tree Streets and despite all of the names of the streets themselves, Pine, Vine, Palm, Ash, etc., there are actually a shortage of trees in the Tree Streets overall. They have located 30 locations where we are going to be able to plant a tree and that will be undertaken by the Parks Department over the next few weeks. Tomorrow will be the ceremonial planting of the first tree which will take place in front of the Elm Street Jr. High at 1:00 p.m. and any of you who can come would be great.

I wanted to mention the Granite Hammer grant which is going to be voted on for final passage on tonight's agenda. This has come at the right time; about \$250,000 to help the police department in their efforts to fight the criminal side of the opioid problem. They have done an incredible job in trying to keep illegal narcotics trafficking off of the streets despite the very increased demand here throughout the State of New Hampshire and throughout New England. They have made over 500 arrests for dealing this year already. The grant will help to supplement their efforts and comes right at the right time because their overtime has been largely depleted as a result of all of the work that they have been doing. As you know, extra resources have been diverted into the anti-heroin effort. The traffic unit is not fully functional anymore and those officers have been diverted into narcotics. The grant, which comes from the State of New Hampshire is really helpful to us and comes at the right time.

I wanted to mention R-16-074 which has to do with a budget transfer from the library to the Economic Development Department. The reason I thought that people might be puzzled by what this is all about; the reason for this is Tim Cummings, the Economic Development Director, has met with the Library Board and the Hunt Memorial Building Board to discuss with them the idea of moving the woman who works for the Hunt Building from her budget placement under the library to under economic development. The reality is that she really doesn't do any work for the library and the Hunt Building, as Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja can say as she is on that Board, is an economic asset for the city and we thought that it would make more sense to have the employee at the Hunt Building supervised by Mr. Cummings under the Economic Development Department as opposed to the library. Jen McCormack was fine with this. She really doesn't provide a whole lot of supervision because the employee does not work at the library and we thought that this would be a positive change in terms of the functioning of the Hunt Building and the Economic Development Department. There is no real change in spending. Half of this position was under the library and now, if you approve this will be under the Economic Development Department. I just wanted to let you know what that was all about.

Finally we have the Art Walk that is coming up this weekend which is always a big event for downtown and we are looking forward to this very much. The kick-off is at noon on Saturday and then at 3:30 p.m. there is a zombie bike ride so I hope that as many of you as possible can join me in the zombie bike ride. I think it will be a lot of fun.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Lopez

Will the Mayor be dressing as a zombie?

Mayor Donchess

Apparently, yes so that's worth just coming to see that.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Just to follow up on the position be moved to Economic Development, I was there for the meeting and as the Mayor said, Jennifer McCormack from the library thought that this move made sense and the members of the Hunt Board of Trustees all thought that it made a lot of sense since one of the things that they are looking to do is to increase the revenues coming from that building to support that building. There was unanimous agreement in terms of making this change and moving the position to the Economic Development Department.

Unfortunately Mayor Donchess I don't have my scooter anymore so I can't ride with you.

RECOGNITION PERIOD – None

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE THAT THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2016, BE ACCEPTED, PLACED ON FILE, AND THE READING SUSPENDED
MOTION CARRIED**

COMMUNICATIONS – None

Alderman Deane

I believe we got an e-mail from Mr. Teeboom indicating that he wanted his e-mail accepted as a communication.

President McCarthy

Yes and it's on the agenda for the next meeting.

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENING

Mr. Fred Teeboom, 24 Cheyenne Drive

There was an article in the Telegraph today "School Tax Break to Wait" and it quotes Alderman David Schoneman. He mentions that O-16-0111 has been sitting around for a long time. O-16-011 deals with giving charter schools some small amount of offset based on the property taxes on whatever facility they

rent because right now they pay the full share of the taxes on whatever they rent. That all seems unfair really, I mean the public schools have buildings and don't pay any taxes. Now, there was a quote made when this first came up on 10 May on page 12 of the minutes where Alderman Clemmons is quoted as saying when talking about charter schools, "I think that they syphon money off of the district for the benefit of the few and then the rest of the population that's left behind have fewer resources to invest in the public schools." That is a complete fabrication. There is no loss to the public schools from the charter schools. If you look at the cost data and I did this once before and I think I sent it the Board before, I won't go through the details because it gets a bit complicated to stand here and go through the mathematics but if you consider the average cost of a student in the public school is \$13,000 per student/per year and the average teacher in the Nashua School District, loaded, the current union contract, makes \$89,000 per year. There are a little over 1,000 teachers in the district and 11,500 students in the district. The ratio of teacher per student is 11.4 students per teacher. If you look at the number of charter schools that are off-loaded, kids are off-loaded into charter schools. There are 257 kids off-loaded to the Academy for Science & Design. There are 464 children that were off-loaded totally in all charter schools in the region. If you do the calculation of what the off-loaded cost is, what the benefit of that is; by not having as many teachers necessary because the students are off-loaded. In order to bring the charter school kids back into the public school you have to hire more teachers and if you go through the calculations the ratio of teachers to students. The savings is \$2 million if you look just at the Academy of Science & Design. The savings to the taxpayers is \$3.6 million if you look at all of the charter schools. That's based on off-loading teachers from the public schools. There is another way to look at that calculation and that's to look at the education aid from the state. The state, through the budget, granted \$40.1 million to Nashua. There's a lot of debate and statements that some people think it's too much, other cities are complaining like Dover. If you look at that and spread that over the cost not going to the charter schools, that's an average cost of \$3,490 per student state aid. That's a cost to the taxpayers. Bringing the students over to the charter schools you don't get that aid. That's a savings of \$2.62 million for the Academy of Science & Design and \$4.4 million in charter schools. There's two different ways to calculating and they come to the same result. The results are the savings is between \$2 million and \$2.6 million looking at the Academy of Science & Design and \$3.6 million to \$4.4 million looking at all of the charter schools. The paper mentions that there are some costs for special ed. Charter schools have to accept special ed kids and they do, a few. I haven't had any time to look into what the cost savings is. I don't exactly know what it costs Nashua for special ed. Let's assume its \$40,000 for special ed, I think it's a high figure. Let's assume there are 20 kids total from the charter schools that's still \$800,000. Nowhere near the \$3 to \$4 million savings. I think that number is high. Look at the results that the charter schools give us. First of all, Alderman Clemons is just plain wrong. If you look at the ranking of schools, the Academy of Science & Design is rated number 1 in the entire state. North High School is ranked 57 out of 77 high schools, that is 20 from the bottom. There are 56 high schools doing better than Nashua High School North and for that we pay \$13,000 per student. I see the Spofford School is going bankrupt and the federal government is questioning what value we are getting for the money. If you think North is doing bad, South is number 76 out of 77 in the ranking. There is only one more high school worse than Nashua High School South. The Academy of Science & Design is number 1. The Nashua School District is 100 out of 125. There are 99 school districts rated higher than the Nashua School District. Surely charter schools are an enormous benefit. Not for everybody, two of my grandchildren went to charter schools. One went for two years and one went for one year. My daughter, for reasons of her own, decided to switch them back to the regular public schools. There is quite a bit of shifting back and forth actually. Kids go into them in the 7th grade and leave in the 9th or they decide it's not their thing. That's okay but you don't denigrate your other schools. We have a proposition and this costs \$80,000. I think Alderman Dowd asked that question and it was answered, \$80,000 is the total cost to ASD and the other \$45,000 was the cost for all charter schools. That's the cost of the tax offset. That's not in the financial analysis by the way but that's the number that came up at the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee meeting, if I am correct. It is enormous value and I wish Alderman Schoneman was here so he could take it off of the table. Somebody here should take it off the table and Pete's sake, vote on it. Thank you.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Appointments by the Mayor

The following Appointments by the Mayor were read into the record:

Building Code Board of Appeals

Daniel Bergeron (New Appointment)
27 Webster Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: October 1, 2019

Scott Cote (New Appointment)
39 Tenby Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Term to Expire: November 1, 2019

Kevin Slattery (Reappointment)
4 Berkeley Street
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: September 1, 2018

Historic District Commission

Robert Sampson (Reappointment)
18 Sargent Avenue
Nashua, NH 03064

Term to Expire: September 30, 2019

Nashua Arts Commission:

Marc Thayer (New Appointment)
1 Clocktower Place, #416
Nashua, NH 03060

Term to Expire: April 1, 2019

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR AS
READ AND REFER THEM TO THE PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MOTION CARRIED**

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Finance Committee 10/05/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the October 5, 2016
Finance Committee accepted and placed on file.

Human Affairs Committee 10/06/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the October 6, 2016
Human Affairs Committee accepted and placed on file.

Planning & Economic Development Committee 10/04/16

There being no objection, President McCarthy declared the report of the October 4, 2016
Planning & Economic Development Committee accepted and placed on file.

WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS – None

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-064

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Aldерwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF AN ADDITIONAL \$7,072 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTO FIRE GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2015 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT"

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-064
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-064 declared duly adopted.

R-16-065

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Aldерwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Tom Lopez

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF AN ADDITIONAL \$33,021.38 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTO TRANSIT GRANT ACTIVITY "FEDERAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY ("FTA") OPERATING GRANT"

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA TO AMEND R-16-065 IN ITS ENTIRETY BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDEN ROD COPY PROVIDED WITH THE AGENDA

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Dowd

What are the amendments?

Aldерwoman Melizzi-Golja

The period for the grant was originally October 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016; and the grant now will run from October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2018. The amount has been increased from \$33,021.38 to \$264,168.96. The committee agreed that this was important in terms of knowing that we would have this money through September of 2018 for transportation.

MOTION CARRIED

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN MELIZZI-GOLJA FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-065 AS AMENDED
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-065 declared duly adopted as amended.

R-16-070

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Aldерwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Tom Lopez

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$32,366.55 FROM THE STATE
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2017 SUSTAINED TRAFFIC
ENFORCEMENT PATROLS (STEP)"**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-070
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-070 declared duly adopted.

R-16-072

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Ken Siegel
Aldерwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$249,266.77 FROM THE STATE
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "FY2017
OPIOID ABUSE REDUCTION INITIATIVE (OARI)"**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARON FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-16-072
MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution R-16-072 declared duly adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-16-011

Endorsers: Alderman Don LeBrun
Alderman Ken Siegel
Alderman David Schoneman
Alderman Tom Lopez

**ADOPTING PROVISIONS FOR REDUCED TAXATION FOR CERTAIN CHARTERED PUBLIC
SCHOOL FACILITIES**

- Tabled at Full Board Level – 5/10/16

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-16-073

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Richard A. Dowd

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$46,592 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INTO POLICE GRANT ACTIVITY "2016 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL)"

Given its first reading; assigned to the HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

R-16-074

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$25,000 FROM DEPARTMENT #179 "LIBRARY," ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION 51 "SALARIES AND WAGES" AND ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION 52 "FRINGE BENEFITS" INTO DEPARTMENT #183 "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

Given its first reading; assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-16-018

Endorser: Alderman June M. Caron

ESTABLISHING TWO FIFTEEN MINUTE PARKING TIME LIMIT ZONES ON PORTIONS OF ARLINGTON STREET AND GILLIS STREET

Given its first reading; assigned to the COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE by President McCarthy

O-16-019

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess

INCREASING SEWER USE FEES RATES AND CHARGES

Given its first reading; assigned to the PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE by President McCarthy

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Wilshire

I would like to say thank you to the people who put so much time into the Children's Room at the library. They had kind of a grand opening and it was well done and well received.

Alderman Cookson

I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Nashua West for putting on their 42nd Annual Spaghetti City at the Senior Activity Center this evening. It was well attended and appreciated having Alderman Lopez join us for the event and I hope many more of you can join us next year for our 43rd Annual Spaghetti City. It was a lovely event.

Alderman Moriarty

Nashua's Mason Lodge is having an open house on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. They are across the street from City Hall on Main Street.

Alderman O'Brien

I would like to congratulate the Schoneman family and good luck with their new son.

Alderman Lopez

Last Sunday I participated in the Out of the Darkness walk through Mine Falls. It was heartening to see how many people took the walk seriously and participated in it. It is meant to recognize suicide awareness and support. There was a very good turn-out among some of our elected officials; Kelly Ayotte, Peggy Gilmore and it was good to see the recognition and the support that our community provides.

I wanted to remark on the Mayor's comments regarding the opioid addiction issue. It's still heavily impacting our city. I attended the drug court proceedings today and Judge Leary commented that we've had eight deaths in eight days starting off the month in October. The mortality rate is going through the roof right now and it's something that we as a city and each of us as community leaders should be looking at to figure out how we can help and what we can do to contribute to the larger effort to make this an issue that our community tackles.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Cookson

Infrastructure is tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Planning and Economic Development Committee is next Tuesday, the 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the chamber.

Alderman Moriarty

Now that Pennichuck has filed their rate increase case I can actually schedule a meeting of the Pennichuck Water Special Committee, hopefully soon.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE THAT THE OCTOBER 11, 2016, MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED
MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Attest: Patricia D. Piecuch, City Clerk